GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4541
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2016
Handing Over NCES to MoES
George Shri (Adv.) Joice

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Centre for Earth Sciences (NCES) Thiruvananthapuram under the State Government of Kerala was handed over to the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) in the year 2012 and if so, the purposes thereof;

(b) whether any Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the State of Kerala and his Ministry at the time of the said hand over and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Government of Kerala and the Union Government are deriving due benefits as a result thereof; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor along with the corrective action taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
(SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY)

(a) Centre for Earth Science Studies (CESS) Thiruvananthapuram became an autonomous institution under Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) with effect from 01.01.2014 and was renamed as National Centre for Earth Science Studies (NCESS).

The objective of take-over of the CESS by MoES is to provide the nation with best possible services in the realm of earth system sciences through well integrated research programs to understand the complex interactions among key elements of the Earth System, namely, ocean, atmosphere and solid earth, and to promote basic and applied research in the frontier areas of Earth Sciences with particular emphasis on Solid Earth.

(b) Yes Madam.

An MoU was signed between the Ministry of Earth Sciences, GoI and Science and Technology Department, Government of Kerala vide certificate no. IN-DL02604383021117L dated 27.12.2013. Role of MoES and Science & Technology Department, Government of Kerala is given in Annexure-I.

(c-d) Yes Madam.

Research and development activities of NCESS covering the whole country is expected to benefit millions of people across the country and provide access to increased knowledge on earth's processes, better predictive systems for natural hazards, development of natural resources management plans, increased access to thematic maps, etc. These activities include the following four major themes;

â€¢ Geodynamics of Indian subcontinents
â€¢ Landscape evolution
â€¢ Water & Environment
â€¢ Coastal Hydrodynamics
â€¢ Natural Hazards

With the takeover of the institute by MoES, Govt of India, the scope of research programs of NCESS has expanded further without compromising the State needs. NCESS has participated with Kerala State Council for Science, Technology & Environment (KSCSTE) for preparation of Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP) of entire Kerala State and also implemented a research program to investigate on the possible impact of sea level rise along Kerala coast with the Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC), Government of Kerala. NCESS has been spearheading many socially-relevant programs like Panchayat Resources Mapping (PRM), Rainwater Harvesting, Watershed Management, Sand Mining, Environmental Impact Studies, Landslide evaluation, Coastal Erosion, Earthquakes, Lightning etc, in addition to the generation of basic knowledge on rocks, minerals and geological evolution of Kerala State.

Further, it continues to support different periodic requirements of the Kerala Government.